

MARVEL

2

LGY#728

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THOR



EXCLUSIVE
STRANGE
ACADEMY
PREVIEW
INSIDE

THOR

THOR RECENTLY BECAME THE ALL-FATHER OF ASGARD, BUT HE BARELY HAD TIME TO SETTLE INTO HIS NEW ROLE AS KING BEFORE A WOUNDED GALACTUS CRASHED INTO THE GOLDEN REALM WITH A TERRIBLE WARNING:

THE BLACK WINTER — THE STAR PLAGUE THAT DESTROYED GALACTUS' ORIGINAL UNIVERSE — IS NOW COMING TO DESTROY THIS UNIVERSE.

TO PREVENT IT FROM DOING SO, GALACTUS NEEDS TO CONSUME FIVE PLANETS WITH RARE AND UNIQUE ENERGIES THAT WILL AUGMENT HIS POWER.

THOR INSISTED ON GOING WITH GALACTUS TO SEE THE DENIZENS OF THESE WORLDS TO SAFETY FIRST. SO GALACTUS TRANSFORMED THOR INTO HIS NEW HERALD...

...THE HERALD OF THUNDER.

“THE DEVOURER KING” PART TWO “LIGHTNING AND HUNGER”

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THOR CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY



What will you
do when the
end comes?



When your past
and your future
cease to be?



When the entirety of
who you are and who
you will ever be...



...becomes moot in the
silent, indifferent cold
that falls across your
universe?



Will you scream
prayers to
your gods?

Will you clasp your hands
in hope that your noble
defenders will arrive?

You will.

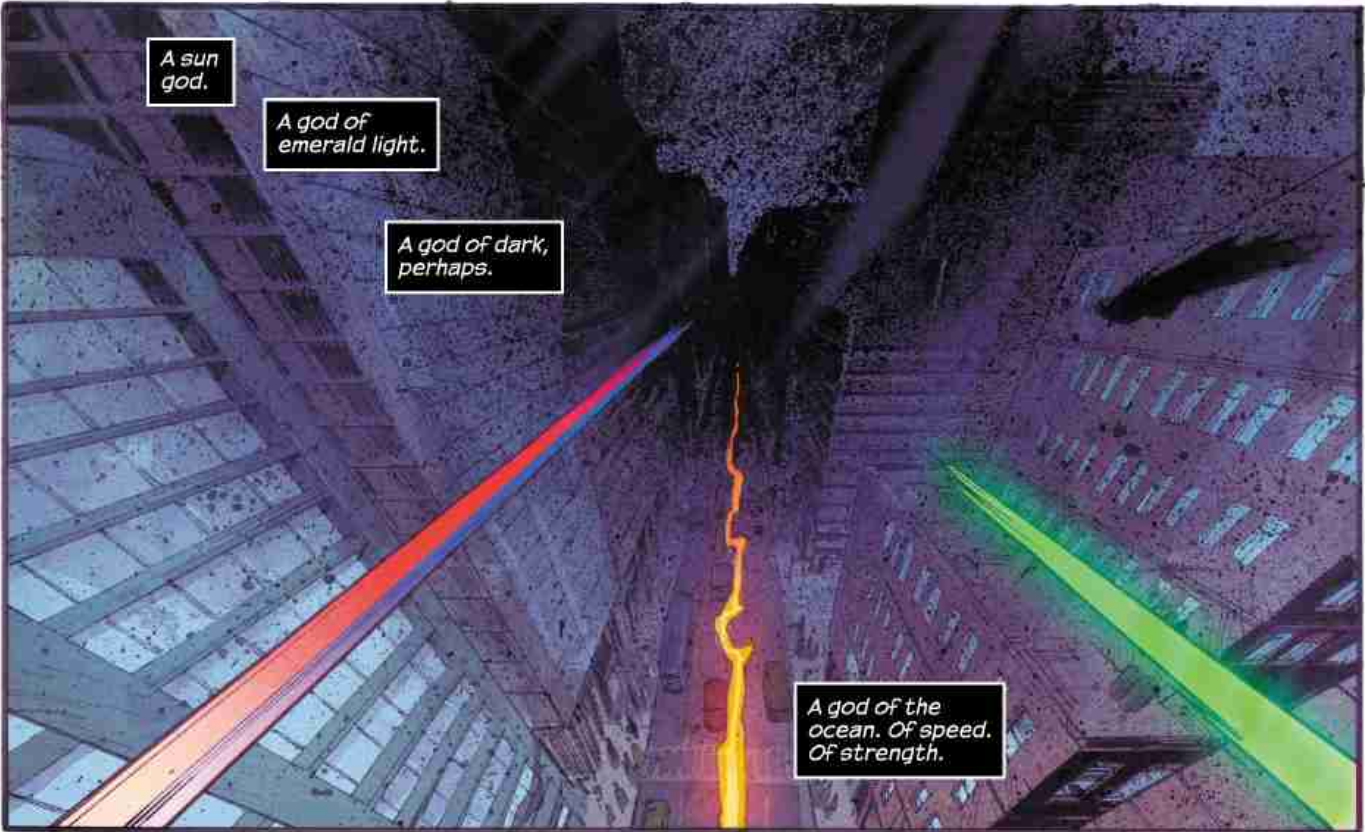


They all do.

And just like the
denizens of this
particular
universe...



*...your gods
will arrive.*



*A sun
god.*

*A god of
emerald light.*

*A god of dark,
perhaps.*

*A god of the
ocean. Of speed.
Of strength.*



*This universe, like so
many before it, is
protected by
leagues of gods.*

*Many of them as powerful
as those you have always
known and marveled at.*



*And all of
them...*

*...united, powered
beyond imagination
by the belief of the
faithful...*



...will not be enough.



For they too will look into the eyes of the Black Winter.

And they will see the stone-faced avatar of their one true end...

For them, their omega. The one who is.



And there, staring at the encroaching dark, these mighty heroes will do what everyone before them has done.



They will cry and scream and pray for their gods to save *them*.



And then, as with everything...

...they
will die.

PLANET ONE: CLYPSE.
NOW.

And yet, a
universe
away...

...there
is Thor.

The god-king of
Asgard and
thunder.

The burning
Herald of
Galactus.

And to all of
this, the Herald
King says...

NAY.



THIS PLANET
IS INHABITED.
THERE IS
LIFE HERE.

WE WILL
MOVE TO THE
NEXT WORLD. THE
SURFER GAVE ME
THE COORDINATES
OF FIVE OF THESE...
ENCHANTED PLANETS.
SURELY **FOUR**
WILL--

NO.
I WILL NEED
THE POWER FROM
ALL FIVE WORLDS
TO SURVIVE THE
ONSLAUGHT OF
THE STAR
PLAGUE.

THOUGH YOU
MAY KEEP THE
COORDINATES LOCKED
AWAY FROM ME IN YOUR
MIND, KNOW THAT GALACTUS
IS YET THE ONLY THING
THAT STANDS BETWEEN
UNIVERSAL LIFE AND
DEATH.

AYE.

AND
I STAND
BETWEEN YOU
AND THIS
PLANET.

AND YOU
ARE WEAK.
HUNGRY.

WOULD YOU
LIKE TO SEE
WHICH OF US
WOULD FALL
FIR--



For reasons Thor does not yet know, Mjolnir has grown heavier by the day since he ascended the golden throne of Asgard.



And even now, with the Power Cosmic coursing through his god-veins, mighty Thor has struggled to hold his mutinous mallet.



I GAVE YOU THE POWER YOU NOW WIELD, THOR.

I CAN TAKE IT AWAY.

But here, amid the acidic winds of a doomed planet...



YOU KNOW NOTHING OF THE POWER I WIELD.

...Mjolnir is a dragon on the wind.







I WILL TELL
YOU THIS ONCE,
GALACTUS.

THOUGH YOU
HAVE NAMED ME
HERALD IN TITLE
AND POWER...



...I REMAIN
A KING. AND
A GOD.

AND I SHALL
NOT SUFFER
THREATS NOR
INSTRUCTION
FROM YOU,
OR FROM--



UNF!

THUNK

And then there are those who have no gods.

Those who see a being of angelic light and a great black leviathan raging in their heavens and think not of salvation...

AH, HEL...

...but, rightfully, of ruin.

AGH!

Thor speaks, as he always has, with the All-Tongue. Allowing all to hear and understand the words he speaks.

No matter the place nor the peoples.

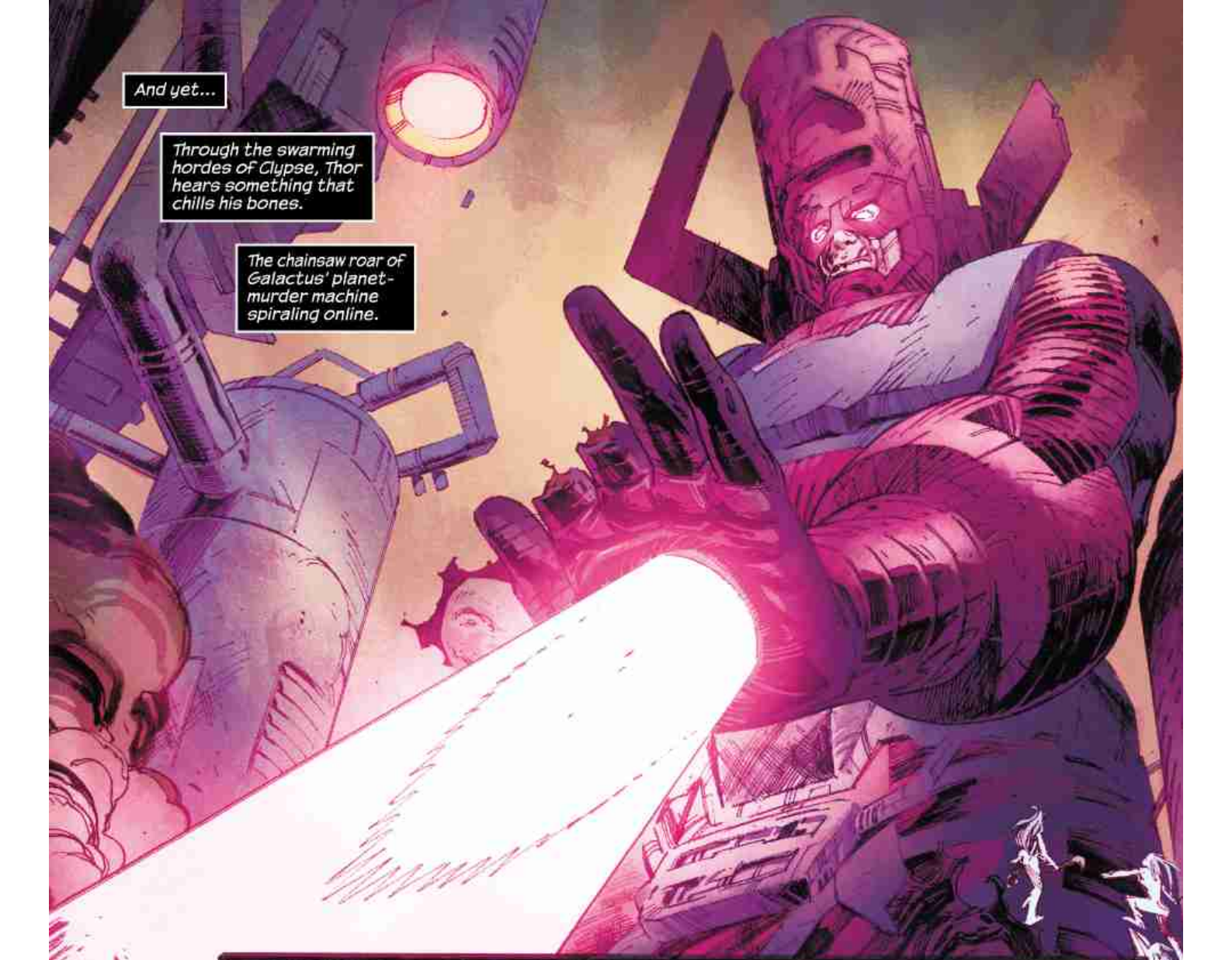
NO! LISTEN TO ME, YOU ODIN-DAMNED FOOLS!

I CAN'T SAVE YOU...

Though for some, there are words, and then there is war.

And only ever room enough for one.

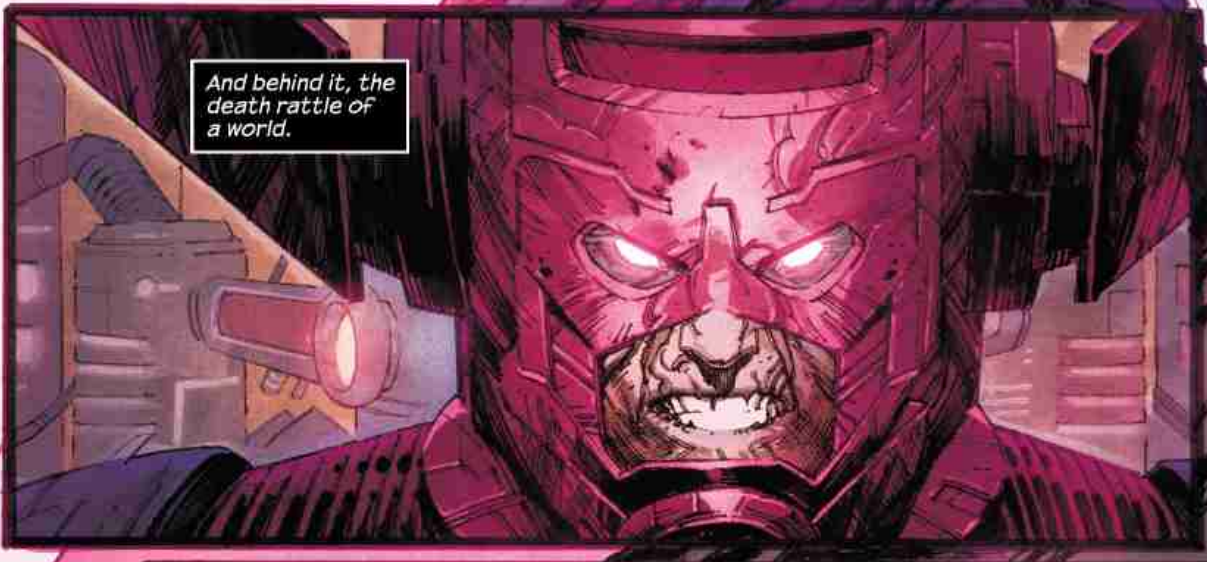
...IF I HAVE TO KILL YOU!



And yet...

Through the swarming
hordes of Cypse, Thor
hears something that
chills his bones.

The chainsaw roar of
Galactus' planet-
murder machine
spiraling online.



And behind it, the
death rattle of
a world.



The thunder rises and
boils in the back of
his throat...

GALACTUS,
no!!!



...across
the stars.

...and burns
his words...

YES, my
KING?

A BRIDGE.

SIF!

AYE.

A moment passes.

And then, across a chasm of forever...

...the shimmering path of Asgard explodes the shadows of Cypse.

This...is the gateway of the gods.

The lightning that hunts.

The blood sap of the world ash.

And we shall know it, as Bifrost.

The unshattered.

The eternal unbroken.

HEAR THIS, DEVOURER.
THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET ARE UNDER MY PROTECTION FROM THIS MOMENT FORWARD.

AND WHEN THEY ARE FREE OF THIS PLANET AND SAFELY AMONG THE PEOPLE OF ASGARD, THEN...AND ONLY THEN...
...MAY YOU FEED.

DO YOU HEAR ME?
NO ONE DIES TODAY.

NO ONE DIES FOR YOU.

And so, back
in Asgard...

A STRAIGHT
LINE, DAMN YOU!
HEY! NO! YOU PUT
THAT MAN'S
ARM BACK!

ANY BRILLIANT
IDEAS, SENATOR?
THIS CROWD IS
ABOUT TO--



DAMMIT,
WE NEED ALE
OR ASGARD
WILL BURN!!!

THORI THIN
CROWD DOWN TO
MANAGEABLE SIZE
WITH TEETH
AND--

I NO KILL
ASS-GODS,
BUT--

ASGARDIANS!
YOU DON'T KILL
ASGARDIANS. THAT
INCLUDES GUESTS
AS--

I HELP!
I HELP!

NO,
THORI! YOU
KNOW THE
RULES.

VOLSTAGG!



VOLSTAGG, I HAVE SPOKEN TO THE COUNCIL LEADERS OF THE PEOPLE OF CLYPSE AND EXPLAINED THEIR NEW CIRCUMSTANCES.

I HAVE PROMISED THEM SANCTUARY HERE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS I CAN REPLENISH THEIR CROPS AND THE ENERGY OF THEIR HOME-WORLD.

...THOR?

MY LORD, THOU CANST SPEAK... THROUGH YOUR RAVENS?

HUGIN AND MUNIN AREN'T RAVENS. NEVER HAVE BEEN, TRULY.

I TRUST YOU'LL LOOK AFTER THIS MATTER IN MY STEAD.

FOR ASGARD.

FOR ASGARD, YES, BUT THOR, MY KING!

THE WORLD TREE! IT'S...

IT'S...

OH, THOR...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT THERE?

And thus, as all things do, the planet Cypse dies.



Its energies collapsed and converted to feed and heal the only thing capable of saving everything...from nothing.



There are no screams, nor prayers to gods or heroes.



Whatever heavens this planet had are empty.



For all the gods who knew them are here.

NGGG...
THIS...
POWER...
NEED...
MORE...





GALACTUS,
ENOUGH!

YOU'LL
KILL US
BOTH!



MORE!!!

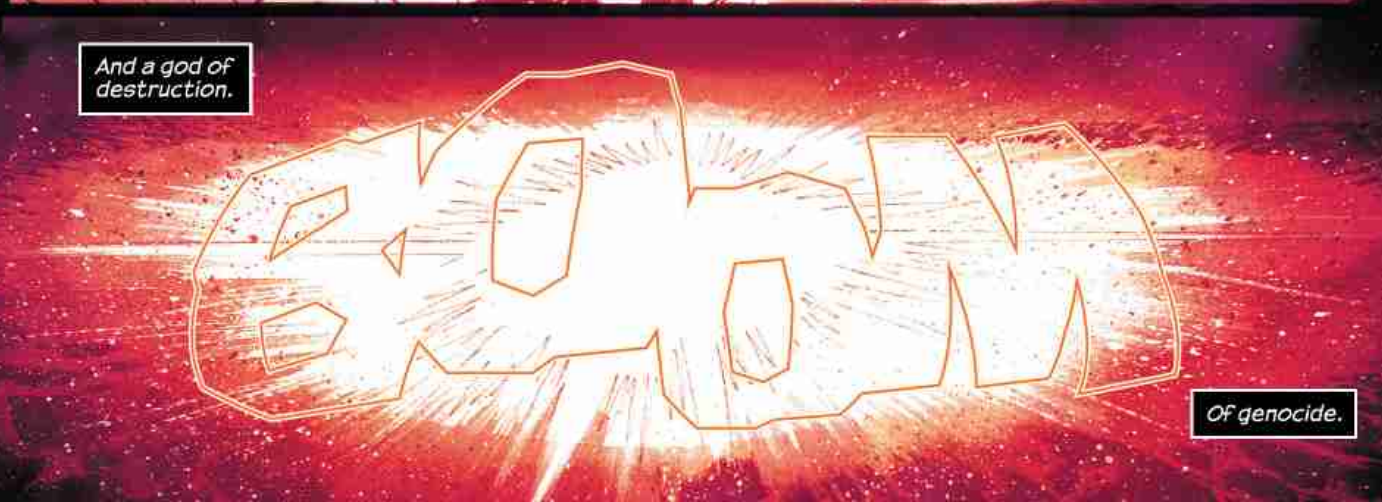


A god of
lightning.



Of thunder.

DAMN YOU,
GALACTUS!
YOU MUST--



And a god of
destruction.

Of genocide.

A god of
hunger.



you...

you didn't
have to
break it...



I MADE
THOSE PEOPLE
A PROMISE... THAT
THEY WOULD
RETURN HOME
ONE DAY.

you
didn't have
to KILL THIS
WORLD!!!



IT WAS
NECESSARY.

AS IS
THIS.

STAN'S SOAPBOX
FEBRUARY 1980

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Bear with me, gang. It's philosophy time again! I was having a discussion the other day with a professor pal of mine from U.C.L.A. about the so-called "generation gap," and I laid a few personal opinions on him that I'd like to share with you.

First, we're never gonna solve the generation gap till we stop seeking the wrong answers to the wrong questions. Every one yaps about young people being "different" nowadays. Forget it! Human nature doesn't change. It's the human condition that changes—it's the environment! What's happened to us is, the world has been wildly changing, producing new sets of rules each time you blink your eye. It's the social climate that's been changing, not you 'n me, Bunk!

Here, this'll show what I mean. Say you've got two homes, a large country estate and a small city apartment. You play your stereo full blast on your estate, but who cares? No one can hear it. You're not disturbing anyone. But play it just as loud in your small apartment with the paper thin walls and your neighbors wanna clobber you! You haven't changed. You're the same yoyo in both places. But the conditions are different!

The fact is, young people are the same as ever, the same noisy, scroungy, mangy, nutty, wonderful crazies they've always been — and adults are still the same grouchy, grunchy, goopy, hard-pressed and harassed heroes they've always been — and which you'll soon become! Nothing's changed but the labels. Which leads to point #2 —

None of us is all that different from each other. We all want essentially the same things outta life — a measure of security, some fun, some romance, friendship, and the respect of our contemporaries. That goes for Indians, Chinese, Russians, Jews, Arabs, Catholics, Protestants, blacks, browns, whites, and green-skinned Hulks. So why don't we all stop wasting time hating the "other" guys. Just look in the mirror, mister — that other guy is you!

Excelsior!

Stan



STAN LEE
FOREVER

- MARVEL TWO-IN ONE #40 — We're keeping the secret of this story under our hats, but it stars the Thing and the Impossible Man. "Null said!"
- SHOGUN WARRIORS #17 — The Shoguns face the villainy of the Demoniac!
- SPIDER-WOMAN #23 — Spider-Man is caught in the mad plot of the Gamesman!
- ROM, SPACEKNIGHT #3 — The coming of... FIREBALL!
- MACHINE MAN #13 — Machine Man vs. The Mysterious Crime Lord, Kuma Khan.
- SPIDER-MAN #201 — The Punisher stalks Peter Parker!
- CAPTAIN AMERICA #243 — Capt. America caught up in the mind-bending plot of the Manipulator!
- THOR #292 — Thor journeys to strange dimension to seek the soul of Odin!
- MICRONAUTS #14 — Bob returns to his native planet, Kallikar, and leads rebellion against his outcast for WARTSTAFF!
- DR. STRANGE #39 — While Dr. Strange goes to Peru and battles minions of Baron Mordo!
- GHOST RIDER #47 — Robert's memory, Johnny Blaze is warned the demon within him!
- FUN & GAMES #8 — Puzzles, Games, Outrageous fun!
- BATTLESTAR GALACTICA — More adventures of the Galactica Scurvy World. Will Starbuck lead there forever?
- HULK #244 — Hulk vs. the Colossus in "It Lives!"
- AVENGERS #102 — The Colossus! He was born in the blast furnace! And he lives to blast!
- CONAN #107 — More sword and sorcery action with the barbarian of all!
- MARVEL TALES #112 — Amazing Spider-Man #195! Man and the Punisher fight the Tarantula!
- X-MEN #130 — Includes DAZZLER! Such is the Marvel series!
- POWERMAN AND IRON THUNDERBOLT original! Mark's attacked! And you're in Luke Cage's grave!
- FANTASTIC FOUR #21 — Turn of Blister, the turn!
- MARVEL TEAM-UP #40 — Men and the Beast meet the Mysterio Man and the

HE STRIKES FROM
OUTER SPACE--

But then...

There is another...

One who speaks for all who have no gods to speak for them.

ACH!!

CHOOM

But then...

There is another...

One who speaks for all who have no gods to speak for them.

ACH!!

CHOOM

But then...

There is another...

One who speaks for all who have no gods to speak for them.

ACH!!

CHOOM

But then...

There is another...

One who speaks for all who have no gods to speak for them.

ACH!!

CHOOM

One who sees fallen angels and devils raging in the hollows of a dead world...

...and thinks not of salvation...

no...

...but, rightfully, of ruin.

no...

...but, rightfully, of ruin.

And vengeance.

THOR.

I NEED
TO SPEAK
WITH YOUR
MASTER.

PLEASE,
BROTHER...

...DO NOT
MAKE ME
GO THROUGH
YOU.

TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT ISSUE:

**HE IS CALLED BILL--
BETA RAY BILL!**



**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! WRITE US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM,
AND MARK YOUR LETTERS "OKAY TO PRINT."**

ACADEMY

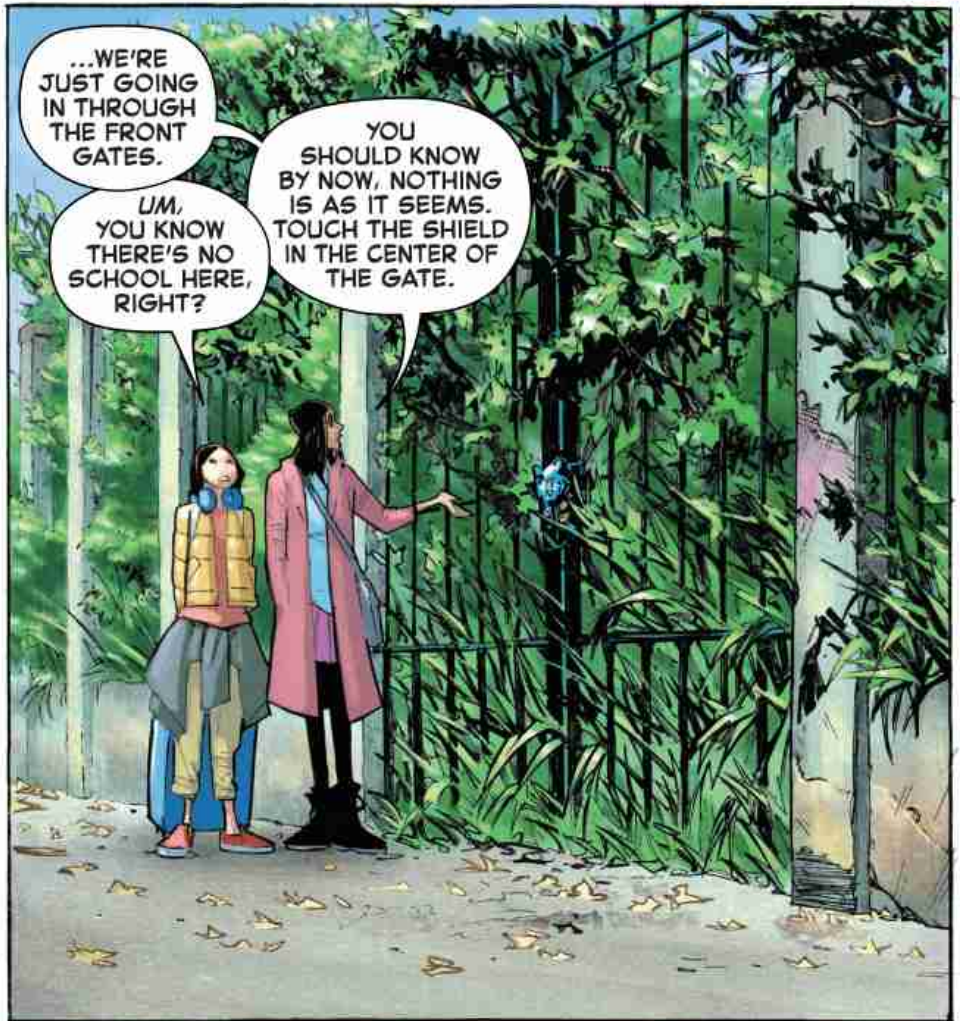
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ACADEMY

WELCOME, TRUE BELIEVERS! ENJOY THIS 8-PAGE PREVIEW OF THE NEXT CLASS OF MIGHTY MARVEL MISCHIEF MAKERS, THE STUDENTS OF STRANGE ACADEMY! SCHOOL IS IN SESSION--TURN THE PAGE OR YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE!

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GOING TO BE LATE!**







HOW
DOES ALL THIS
EVEN...

HA
HA HA.
WHAT DO YOU
THINK THE
ANSWER
IS?

UM.
YEAH, RIGHT.
MAGIC.



GUS,
LET'S GET A
SELFIE! ASGARDIANS
HANGING WITH A
FROST GIANT!
EPIC!

I. AM.
SO. EXCITED!
ARE YOU, EMILY?
ARE YOU?

I'LL BE
HONEST;
I'M A BIT
NERVOUS.

IF I
COULD HAVE YOUR
ATTENTION...



...I'M DOCTOR
VOODOO, AND I'D
LIKE TO WELCOME
YOU ALL TO THE FIRST
YEAR OF **STRANGE**
ACADEMY.

THIS KIND OF SCHOOL HAS NEVER
EXISTED, NOR HAS IT *NEEDED* TO.
BUT FOLLOWING THE RESTORATION
OF MAGIC TO OUR WORLD, WE FELT IT
WAS TIME TO TEACH THE SORCERERS
OF TOMORROW.

EACH OF
YOU HAS SHOWN
GREAT POWER AND ABILITY
WITH THE MYSTIC ARTS.



HERE, AT ONE OF THE NATURAL EPICENTERS
OF MAGIC, WE WILL HELP YOU REALIZE AND
FOCUS THOSE ABILITIES.

SO
ARE WE,
LIKE, **SUPER**
HEROES?

NO. YOU'RE
SOMETHING ELSE
ALTOGETHER.

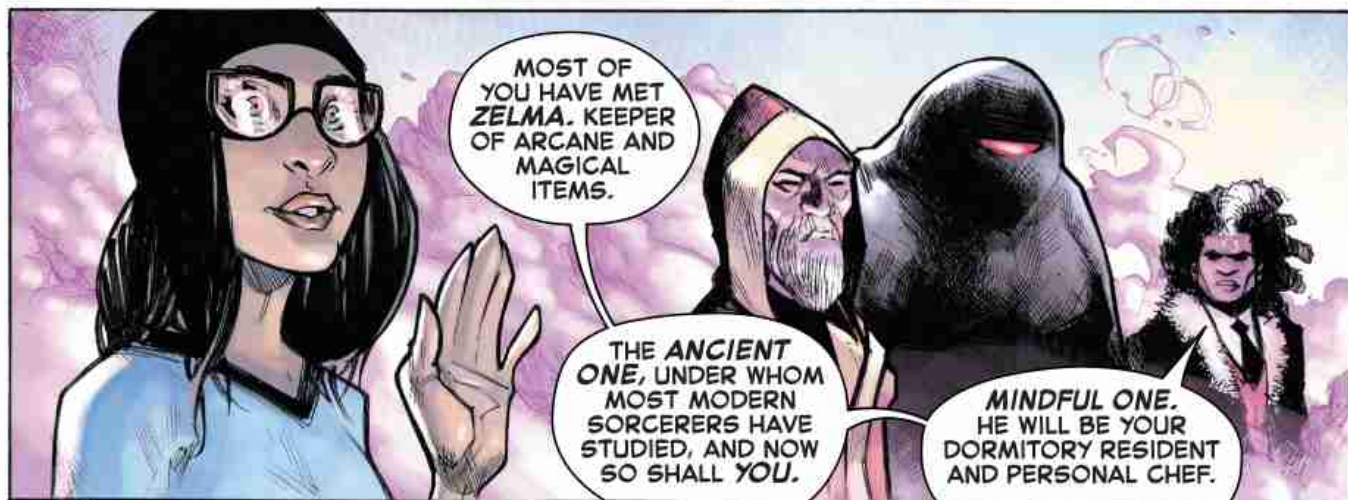




YOUR LESSONS
WILL BE DIFFICULT,
BUT HOPEFULLY
YOU ALL WILL FIND
THE CHALLENGE
ENJOYABLE.



AND HERE TO
HELP YOU RISE TO
THOSE CHALLENGES,
MY STAFF...



MOST OF
YOU HAVE MET
ZELMA. KEEPER
OF ARCANES AND
MAGICAL
ITEMS.

THE **ANCIENT**
ONE, UNDER WHOM
MOST MODERN
SORCERERS HAVE
STUDIED, AND NOW
SO SHALL YOU.

MINDFUL ONE.
HE WILL BE YOUR
DORMITORY RESIDENT
AND PERSONAL CHEF.

AND OUR SPECIAL GUEST
TEACHERS WHO WILL BE
POPPING IN AND OUT
THROUGHOUT THE
YEAR ARE...



...HELLSTROM...

...SCARLET
WITCH...

...NICO
MINORU...

...MAGIK...

...AND
SHAMAN.



THIS IS INSANE. I
CAN'T BELIEVE THIS
IS MY LIFE.

RIGHT?!



HEY! WHAT
ABOUT **DR.**
STRANGE?

YOU TELLING ME
YOU'RE STARTING A MAGIC
SCHOOL AND THE **SORCERER**
SUPREME ISN'T GOING TO
BE TEACHING US
ANYTHING?



THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION, DOYLE.

AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, HE KEEPS VERY BUSY. WHETHER IT'S PROVIDING COUNSEL TO THE MONGITH OF THE LAST DIMENSION OR...



...FIGHTING A THROZIL RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!



THAT'S... THAT'S...



DOCTOR STRANGE

YES, IT'S ME...

...BUT IT WON'T BE FOR LONG IF I DON'T GET A LITTLE ASSISTANCE.

WHO WANTS TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN ON THEIR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL?



GOOD. LET'S GO, THEN.



YOU CAN SIT
THIS ONE OUT IF YOU'D
LIKE, SON OF THE DORK
DIMENSION!

SICK
BURN, THOUGH
I EXPECTED MORE
FROM SOMEONE
FROM ASS
GUARD!



YUCK!

TWASH



AM I
DOING THIS
RIGHT?!

HE HE! IF
THE CRITTERS
ARE NOT KILLING
YOU, THEN, YES,
YOU'RE DOING
IT RIGHT!

**DON'T MISS MARVEL'S NEWEST
MAGICAL MASTERPIECE THIS MARCH!**

